

DDS EMPLOYEE NEWS

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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Legislative Affairs Unveils Website Updates

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Office of Legislative Affairs recently unveiled its new Legislative Update section on the DDS website. The section contains information regarding the current Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Session, which runs from February 6 through May 7, 2008. DDS Legislative Affairs is responsible for proposing and developing legislative initiatives; participating in policy drafting and management; and tracking legislation throughout the session that may impact DDS consumers, employees or providers.

Located on the front page of the website, "Legislative Affairs 2008" offers updated information on legislative bills and recent agency testimony before various committees. In addition, links are provided to all state legislators and committees that work closely with DDS.

The Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs, **Christine Pollio**, and **Rod O'Connor**, Legislative and Regulations Analyst, track the hundreds of bills that are proposed each session at the Capitol. The 2008 session is already well under way, with public hearings and committee meetings in full swing. We are hopeful that the web page will be a useful tool for DDS consumers, families, employees and providers to access information about bills with a potential impact on our service system.

The general assembly website (www.cga.ct.gov) is another great way to keep up with what is going on at the Legislative Office Building and State Capitol. For more information about DDS Office of Legislative Affairs, visit the DDS website at: www.ct.gov/dds.

Wash Your Hands



Keeping your hands clean is one of the best ways to keep from getting sick and spreading illnesses. Cleaning your hands gets rid of germs you pick up from other people . . . from the surfaces you touch . . . and from the animals you come in contact with.

When to Wash:

- Before eating
- Before, during, and after handling or preparing food
- After contact with blood or body fluids (like vomit, nasal secretions, or saliva)
- After changing a diaper
- After you use the bathroom
- After handling animals, their toys, leashes, or waste. After touching something that could be contaminated (such as a trash can, cleaning cloth, drain, or soil)
- Before dressing a wound, giving medicine or inserting contact lenses
- More often when someone in your home is sick
- Whenever your hands look dirty

How to Wash:

- Wet your hands and apply liquid, bar, or powder soap
- Rub hands together vigorously to make a lather and scrub all surfaces
- Continue for 20 seconds! It takes that long for the soap and scrubbing action to dislodge and remove stubborn germs. Need a timer? Imagine singing "Happy Birthday" all the way through – twice!
- Rinse hands well under running water
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer. If possible, use your paper towel to turn off the faucet
- **Remember:** For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/cleanhands.

March - Women's History Month - Did You Know?

- 1990** Dr. Antonia Novello is sworn in as U.S. Surgeon General, becoming the first woman (and first Hispanic) to hold that job.
- 1991** On January 2, Sharon Pratt Dixon is sworn in as mayor of Washington, D.C., becoming the first African-American woman to serve as mayor of a major city.
- 1992** Carol Moseley-Braun, of Illinois, becomes the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate. Mae Jemison becomes the first African-American female astronaut.
- 1993** Shiela Widnall becomes the first secretary of a branch of the U.S. military when she is appointed to head the Air Force. Janet Reno becomes the first woman U.S. Attorney General. Toni Morrison becomes the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature.
- 1997** Madeleine Albright is sworn in as U.S. Secretary of State. She is the first woman in this position as well as the highest-ranking woman in the United States government.
- 1998** During Operation Desert Fox in Iraq, Lt. Kendra Williams, USN, becomes the first U.S. female combat pilot to bomb an enemy target.
- 1999** Lt. Col. Eileen Collins is the first woman astronaut to command a space shuttle mission. Nancy Ruth Mace is the first female cadet to graduate from the Citadel, the formerly all-male military school in South Carolina.
- 2005** Condoleezza Rice becomes the first African-American female U.S. Secretary of State.
- 2006** Effa Manley, co-owner of the Negro Leagues team Newark Eagles, becomes the first woman elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- 2007** Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) becomes the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. Harvard University names Drew Gilpin Faust its first woman president in the school's 371-year history.
- 2008** Hillary Clinton (D-NY) becomes the first woman to run for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

For more information on women's rights and presence in Connecticut, please see the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women web site: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/default.asp>

Tribute Honors Red Cross Angel

The Southbury Training School (STS) recently held one of its Red Cross Blood Drives in honor of **Josephine Magnarella**. Mrs. Magnarella, who passed away in October, had dedicated the last 25 years to volunteering for the Red Cross. Her daughter, JoAnn Waranowicz, is an STS employee.

Mrs. Magnarella started her own association, which distributed angel pins at every blood drive. Purchased out of her own pocket, the pins were her way of saying, "Thank you for donating." The Red Cross honored Mrs. Magnarella with a special title, "Angel of the Red Cross," for her dedication.

At the January drive, her daughter, Ms. Waranowicz, and granddaughter, Cynthia, continued the tradition of handing out angel pins. Forty-six viable contributions were given during the STS drive. According to the Red Cross, the drive was one of the most successful held that day.

Department of Developmental Services

www.ct.gov/dds

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www.solutions-eap.com ♦ 24/7 Assistance ♦ 1-800-526-3485

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WWW.CT.GOV/DDS